

May 18, 2000

Subject: Amendment No. 1 to Letter of Interest No. RDJ-0-30620-00 entitled "High Performance Photovoltaics, Phase I: Identifying Critical Paths"

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

The following information is provided in response to questions received regarding the subject LOI solicitation:

1. Question: What is the upper limit in cost for the requested proposals?

Answer: Section 6 of the LOI states: "the maximum award (for NREL's price participation) will be \$0.5 million for the 2-year period of performance for any single company or university. However, most awards will be smaller." This is hereby revised to "the maximum annual award (for NREL's price participation) will be \$0.5 million for any single company or university. However, most awards will be smaller."
2. Question: Can the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL), operated by Battelle, act as a prime or as a subcontractor of a program funded by this initiative?

Answer: PNNL, as a DOE laboratory, should not respond to this solicitation as an independent respondent, a lead respondent of a team, or a team member (lower-tier subcontractor). If the DOE determines that work should be performed by one of its national laboratories, it will either assign the work directly to PNNL or instruct NREL to execute an inter-contractor purchase.

All other business units of Battelle cannot respond to an NREL competitive solicitation because they are affiliates of the business unit of Battelle that subcontracts with the Midwest Research Institute for the Management and Operation of NREL. The Battelle business units cannot respond as an independent respondent, lead respondent of a team, or team member (lower-tier subcontractor) because of perceived, apparent, or actual Organizational Conflicts of Interest.
3. Question: Are foreign universities allowed to participate in this LOI?

Answer: No, it is NREL's intent to only include U.S. organizations and universities.

4. Question: My organization is planning to write this proposal in collaboration with NASA-MSFC in Huntsville as I will get access to their facility. Is that OK to do?

Answer: If you are thinking about including NASA-MSFC as a lower-tier subcontractor, you should double check with their legal or contracting department to ensure they are allowed to compete against the private sector. It is NREL's understanding that federal agencies can't compete with the private sector for federal funding for contracts or subcontracts.

5. Question: What is the anticipated range for a reasonable cost/year for proposals?

Answer: There is no anticipated range. Per Section 6, Subcontract Award, of the LOI, funding for potential awards is based on availability of DOE funding and on programmatic considerations.

6. Question: If we are partnered with industry, is a letter of support expected in the proposal draft?

Answer: You may submit a letter of support for a partner, however, it is not required.

7. Question: If we apply to the "High Performance Photovoltaics" RFP, can we also apply for the "Photovoltaic Technologies Beyond the Horizon" RFP?

Answer: Yes, you may submit proposals for both solicitations.

8. Question: I am thinking of preparing a response to your RFP's on HiPer PV and Beyond the Horizon. I have a question about this. If I read the RFP's right, the Beyond the Horizon LOI says no more than 2 proposals from one institution. The HiPer PV LOI does not say, or I missed it. Does the limit of two proposals apply to both RFP's? Does that mean, no more than two proposals to the two RFP's together or no more than 2 each (no more than 4 total)?

Answer: NREL's intent was that no more than 2 letters of interest (proposals) be submitted from each organization for the HiPer PV program. The LOI states: "A letter of interest may be submitted for one or both categories: 1) Thin Film Multijunctions and Concentrators (per Section 5.A above), and 2) III-V Concentrator (per Section 5.B above). Separate letters of interest must be submitted and should clearly state the specific category." Per Question 1 above, "Current plans are to limit NREL's annual price participation (cost share) for each award to \$0.5 million for any single company or university. Most awards will be smaller."

You may submit proposal(s) for both the HiPer PV LOI and the Beyond the Horizon solicitation. Please direct any specific questions regarding the maximum number of proposals for the Beyond the Horizon solicitation to the responsible Contract Administrator.

9. Question: In the solicitation the following is contained in Section 6, Subcontract Award: "Current Plans are to limit NREL's price participation (cost share) to \$0.5 million for any single company or university." Our company has a 30% interest in a joint venture with an outside, separate organization. Is the joint venture considered a separate organization from our company and is therefore eligible under the above guideline for a separate award? Can you elaborate on the criteria for determining the definition of a "single" company?

Answer: We would consider the joint venture to be a "single company." Therefore, the joint venture would be eligible for a separate award. In addition, per Question 1 above, the maximum annual award would be \$0.5 million.

10. Question: I am trying to find out if the phase I LOI is for Task A2 - Target T1 which is for the year 2001. The other tasks are meant for the years 2002 onwards. Are we expected to submit our letters of interest for the other targets also at this time?

Answer: Your proposal should be for just a 2-year effort (under either Task A or Task B, or both via separate proposals) and should tie into one or more of the targets for Phase I, which are for 2001 and 2002. (We don't expect work to begin until fiscal year 2001, which begins October 2000.) However, your proposed work should build towards the out-year targets.

Amendment No. 1 to LOI No. RDJ-0-30620-00
May 18, 2000

Offerors are required to acknowledge receipt of this Amendment No. 1, with any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation.

RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED

COMPANY _____

NAME AND TITLE _____

DATE _____